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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 17 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest violations of the Blue Line from Lebanese territory. On the evening of 15 November 2004, two Katyusha rockets were fired from within Lebanon at Israeli territory. One of them landed near the northern Israeli town of Shlomi.

This incident is the most recent in a series of wilful unprovoked attacks carried out against Israel by terrorist organizations, which operate freely from Lebanese jurisdiction, and with Syrian and Iranian sponsorship.

In May 2000, Israel withdrew completely from Lebanon, in full and confirmed compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). Since that time, these acts of aggression against Israelis have continued, enabled by the complicity of the Government of Lebanon, and with the support of the Syrian and Iranian regimes that have long sponsored, trained and financed these terrorist groups. Such actions represent a direct negation of obligations under international law and the provisions of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1310 (2000), 1337 (2001), 1373 (2001), 1553 (2004) and 1566 (2004). The failure of the Government of Lebanon to restore peace and security, ensure the return of its effective authority and prevent cross-border attacks from its territory, in grave violation of these obligations, is the direct cause of instability in the area.

Lebanon, as well as other terrorist-sponsoring regimes in the region, are not absolved of their legal obligations to fight terrorism, like any other State, as part of the global campaign against international terrorism. Were it not for the terrorism and its support infrastructure that operates with impunity from, and with the blessing and direct support of, these regimes, in violation of the most basic legal norms and explicit Security Council resolutions, Israeli measures of defence would be unnecessary. Israel once again calls upon the international community to expect nothing less than full compliance.

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I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 148, and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative